

CITY OF LEON VALLEY



Police Department Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Leon Valley City Council Chambers

6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas 78238

Monday, October 17, 2016

MINUTES

The Police Department Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 17th day of October, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Leon Valley City Hall located at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas for the purpose of the following business:

Call to Order and Selection of Board Members.

City Manager Kelly Kuentler, as the City of Leon Valley Staff Liaison, called the first board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All members introduced themselves and advised the board members what neighborhood they were representing. City Manager Kuentler read the committee charge and mission statement for the Police Department Citizen Advisory Committee. She explained how the City leadership went about choosing and appointing the members of the board. She emphasized that the board was truly borne out of the will of the citizens, as it was brought up by them at the 2016 Town Hall Meeting.

As required by the ordinance, Mrs. Kuentler called for a vote for the Board members required in the ordinance—President, Vice President, and Secretary. A request for a volunteer for the President of the Committee resulted in Ms. Marianna Sanchez volunteering to be the Chairperson. A vote of the 10 members present resulted in a unanimous vote in her favor. A request for volunteers for the Vice Chairperson resulted in Mr. Charles Hawsey volunteering for this position. A vote of the 10 members present resulted in a unanimous vote in his favor. Chief Joseph Salvaggio, as the Police Liaison volunteered for the position of Secretary and was confirmed as such. Mrs. Kuentler turned the meeting over to the Chairperson at this time.

The minutes reflect that the following Members of the Police Department Citizens Advisory Committee were present: Chairperson Marianna Sanchez, Vice Chairperson Charles Hawsey, Councilman David Jordan, Councilman Benny Martinez, Mark Guerra, Heather Riddle, Donna Charles, Jesse Barrera, Susan Hillje, Lelani Mercado, Richard Blackmore, and Karen Seiffert. Byron Woodworth, Kim Crawford, Amy Augustyniak, and Marion Slaughter were not present and their absence was excused.

City Manager Kelly Kuentler, Chief of Police Joseph Salvaggio, and Assistant Chief of Police Ruben Saucedo were also present.

Discussion on Community Programs

The board discussed the following Community Policing programs as listed on the agenda:

- A. Neighborhood Watch- Members stated there had been Neighborhood Watch programs in Leon valley in the past. Some members continue to share their information with neighbors, it is just not a formal program any more. Members requested a "Neighborhood Watch Kit" be created so that we could begin to reinstitute the programs in each neighborhood. They requested more information be brought to the next meeting on how to implement the programs throughout the City.
- B. Utilization of Social Media- Discussion was had concerning how to best use social media to reach the citizens. It was brought up that it was only one method for reaching our citizens, but one that could be beneficial to getting the word out when needed. Everyone agreed to get a campaign started on registering

for the Next Door website, so that we can post items and release information in our neighborhoods. Ms. Sanchez volunteered to create a Facebook page specifically for Leon Valley residents. Chief Salvaggio let everyone know that Police, Fire and City Hall are already utilizing Facebook and Next Door to release information, and we could link up to the Leon Valley citizen page as well. Once these pages are created, it will be posted in the Lions Roar, eNews, and on the City websites to attract residents to join.

- C. Citizen Police Academy- The idea of creating a Leon Valley Citizen Police Academy was discussed. The purpose of these types of programs is to introduce the citizens to their officers, and vice-versa. It is also intended to let the citizens know how policing works in their community. Everyone in the room thought it was a great idea, and all stated they would likely sign up for the training. They also there would be a lot of interest City-wide. All members were tasked with emailing suggestions and volunteers too Chief Salvaggio to form a sub-committee to develop the program.
- D. Outreach to School Age Children- The board members made numerous suggestions on various forms of outreach to school age children. Some of these suggestions are as follows:
 - 1. Halloween Costume Give-One-Take-One Program
 - 2. Bike Rodeo's
 - 3. Blue Santa
 - 4. Breakfast with Santa
 - 5. Red Ribbon Week
 - 6. Summer Youth Program
 - 7. Library Reading to Kids
 - 8. Police Explorers
 - 9. School Clothing Program
 - 10. Boots and Badges
 - 11. Bullying Outreach
 - 12. Diaper Bank Drive
 - 13. Shop with a Cop
 - 14. Cookout with the Police

All of the above will be considered for adoption by the board and police. A calendar of events will be created for the next board.

Discussion on Door Hangars

Chief Salvaggio let the board members know that they implemented a program to check the neighborhoods at night for open doors or property that could be stolen. A suggestion was made to create door hangers for officers to use when they find something, or when something is found when no one is home. Door hangars could be left to let them know they shut their garage door, locked the house, or closed their car door when left open. Others could be created showing good things that were found as well. his would ensure the citizens know they were there, and that they potentially stopped a crime from being committed. Chief Salvaggio will have examples created for the next meeting.

Discussion on Traffic Calming Measures on Bandera Road

A discussion on utilizing traffic calming measures on Bandera Road was undertaken. Everyone agreed that measures to resolve the traffic issues on Bandera should be looked at. One point of discussion was centered on Red Light Cameras being placed at intersections on Bandera Road to help ease the problems of people blocking the crosswalk, speeding, or running the red lights. Chief Salvaggio handed out information on the red light cameras and all committee members were instructed to review it and talk to family, friends and neighbors between meetings to see what the feel for their part of the community would be on installing the devices.

Citizen's Concerns

- 1. Several citizens expressed concerns about the Helotes Dispatch system

2. Old Mill Neighborhood would like to see more speed bumps added
3. Abandoned vehicles and more code enforcement
4. Lack of compassion by some officers
5. Blocking intersections at lights on Bandera Road
6. Graffiti on train at old Wendy's in San Antonio
7. Leon Valley Economic Development Special Election
8. Burglary of Habitations and thefts in the Althea/Hodges Neighborhoods

The Committee agreed to meet monthly for the next three months. The Committee decided to hold the next meeting on November 14, 2016.

Adjournment

Chairperson Marianna Sanchez announced the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Marianna Sanchez
Chairperson

ATTESTED: 
for Kelly Kuenstler
Staff Liaison